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National Pollution Funds Center News Release

“COAST GUARD ANNOUNCES COFR INFORMATION NOW AVAILABLE ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB”

Washington — The U.S. Coast Guard National Pollution Funds Center (“NPFC”) announced today that information concerning Certificates of Financial Responsibility (“COFRs”) (water pollution) is now available on the World Wide Web (“WWW”). The NPFC has created a database which contains information on over 18,000 vessels which currently hold COFRs. This database, updated daily (M-F), will provide the user with such information as vessel type, gross tonnage, COFR number, effective and expiration dates of its Certificate, and the name of the COFR applicant. The user will only need to enter the vessel’s name or a portion of the name.

Vessel operators who intend to use U.S. waters are required, by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 and Superfund, to prearrange evidence which demonstrates their ability to pay removal costs and certain other damages resulting from an oil or hazardous substance spill. The required amounts of prearranged financial responsibility depend upon the vessel’s type and size. When the vessel complies with the requirements for financial responsibility, a COFR is issued.

The web site can be visited by typing its address: <http://www.cofr.npfc.gov> or by visiting the NPFC’s homepage: <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/npfc/npfc.htm>. The web site was created in response to requests from the public to have this type of information available electronically. It also contains downloadable versions of the COFR application form and the COFR regulations as well as some frequently asked questions. In the past, to obtain this information, one would have had to contact the NPFC directly during their business hours. This new capability now allows people to access the information when convenient for them.

For additional information contact Mr. Jeff Fredel at (703) 235- 4813.

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